

Fur trapping in Wisconsin

Few people realize how important trapping of furbearing animals has been historically in Wisconsin. Starting in the early 1600s, Europeans such as Jean Nicolet began exploring Wisconsin, lured by the promise of waters teeming with beaver. For nearly 200 years Europeans traded with local Indian trappers at trade centers such as Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. As white settlement expanded, trapping continued to play an important role in the development of the state.

Since those early years, trapping in Wisconsin has changed a great deal. Furs are no longer brought down the Wisconsin River to trade for tools and flour. Today, trapping of our state's furbearers is a source of recreation and income for several thousand people. It is carefully regulated to protect sensitive species, to encourage ethical practices, and to help control furbearer populations such as beaver, muskrat and raccoon, which can become overpopulated and cause property damage, flooding, and disease. The future of trapping in Wisconsin depends on proper management and ethical trapping — a task that requires the cooperation of all trappers, landowners, and resource managers.

Why trapper education?

We believe that trappers create a good image when they engage in responsible and ethical pursuit of our furbearing resource. Trapper education teaches new or inexperienced trappers ethical trapping procedures. Trapper education includes instruction in the most humane trapping methods, the history of trapping in Wisconsin and North America, and basic wildlife management principles. It is also important for trappers to learn and understand the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners, other outdoor enthusiasts, and managers of our natural resources. The trapper education course provides a solid beginning to trapping education — an education you will use everyday on the trapline.

Who must attend?

All first-time trappers must complete the Trapper Education Course prior to purchasing a trapping license. It is recommended that you be at least 12

years old. Class size may be limited, so early registration is recommended.

Persons exempt from this requirement must have previously purchased a trapping license, completed a voluntary trapper education course, or be actively engaged in farming as defined in State Statute 102.04(3).

What you will learn

The course is designed to provide classroom time and outdoor practice time. A written exam will be given at the end of the last session, which you must pass in order to successfully complete the course.

It includes:

- Trapping history and highlights in wildlife conservation
- Role of trapping today
- Principles of wildlife management
- Wetland values
- Furbearer management, biology, and disease
- Trapping laws and ethics
- Trap preparation, adjustment, setting, and safety
- Humane trapping methods
- Pelt preparation, skinning, grading, and marketing
- Practice setting at least 1 dry land set and 1 water set

The instructors

Each of the certified trapper education instructors in Wisconsin has completed a WTA-DNR instructor course. All are experienced trappers and many are professional biologists. They live in communities throughout Wisconsin.

Correspondence course

A correspondence course is available for students who cannot attend the regular Trapper Education Course classes. Completing the course objectives in this manner will take approximately five weeks.

Contact Mike Widner, Correspondence Course Director, 420 Washington Avenue, Baraboo WI, 53913, (608) 356-9622 for details.

Visit our website at
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/trap/>

Where are the classes held?

Classes will be held in communities statewide. There is a certified instructor near you who will be teaching classes this year. The actual class locations are available by contacting him or her (see back page).

When do the classes meet?

Each instructor sets their own class schedule, but commonly the course requires 3-4 evening sessions and one weekend morning or afternoon.

What does it cost?

The fee for most courses is \$8.00 payable to the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program. This includes all your instruction materials. Some overnight workshops may have a higher fee if meals are provided.

Instructional materials provided

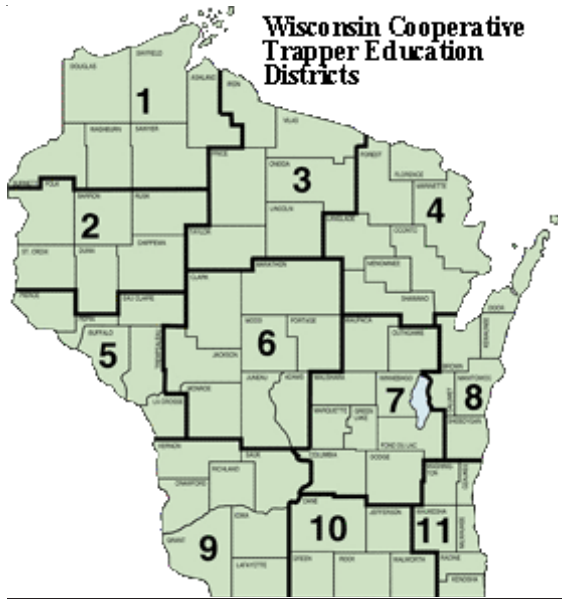
For each student: a student manual, a set of Wisconsin trapping regulations, a graduate card and arm patch, and first year's trapping license for successful graduates.

For class use: a slide program with script, video tapes, flip charts, a set of demonstration traps and pelts, a list of Wisconsin furbuyers, furbearer research results, keys to animal tracks, and more.

How do you sign up?

Turn the page and locate the district where you live. The person at the bottom of the page identified with that district is the district trapper education coordinator. Contact him or her to get details on course dates, times, locations, and the name of the instructor nearest you. You can use the handy form on the back page if you wish. If you cannot reach a district coordinator, contact the statewide coordinator, or DNR Trapper Education Coordinator, 101 South Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921





WCTEP District Coordinators

District 1
Michael Gustafson
P.O. Box 961
Bayfield, WI 54814
(715) 779-3085

District 2
Dan Gee
518 North Adams
St. Croix Falls, WI
54024
(715) 483-9277
danoge@centurytel.net

District 3
Dave Harmon
7445 Trailwood Dr.
Minoqua, WI 54548
(715) 358-3501

District 4
Richard Clark
7610 County B W.
Coleman, WI 54112
(920) 897-3618

District 5
Steve Sievwright
W4471 W Cnty Line
Rd.
Durand, WI 54736
(715) 672-4370
sviteon@nelson-
tel.net

District 6
Lee Sillars
6003 Hwy U
Wausau, WI 54401
(715) 675-3073
lsillars@aol.com

District 7
Scott Zimmerman
W9209 Bobolink Rd.
Reeseville, WI 53579
(920) 927-3420

District 8
Chris Bezio
5479 Hawthorn Dr
Pulaski, WI 54162
(920) 822-3427

District 9
Dennis Knuth
217 Clark Street
Reedsburg, WI
53959
(608) 524-2255

District 10
Skip Gregoire
Box 195
Ft. Atkinson
53538
(920) 563-9132

District 11
Earl Klippel, Jr.
1928 State Rd
175
Richfield, WI
53076
(262) 388-3328

**Statewide
Coordinator**
Nicke Shumaker
PO Box 28
Caroline, WI
54486
(715) 794-2121
wctep@mwwb.net

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Phone(_____) _____ Zip _____
Area Code _____
Age _____
Date Sent _____

For more information: Fill this out and mail to the
nearest district coordinator (inside page).
For more information: Fill this out and mail to the
nearest district coordinator (inside page.)

Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Bureau of Wildlife Management
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Wisconsin Trapper Education Course



Regulated trapping in Wisconsin is important to our citizens by managing furbearer populations while restoring endangered or extirpated species as well. Regulated trapping also provides property damage control, habitat management, and protection of wetland trout streams, wild rice beds, and lowland forests. Regulated trapping is managed through science-based rules strictly enforced by conservation wardens and supported by 71 percent of the Wisconsin public (Mark Duda & Associates, 2002). Mandatory trapper education provides the basis for responsible, ethical actions.



Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication can be made available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call (608)266-8204 for more information.

